

Governor's Office of Community Service
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Global and Youth Service Day

(Helena) --- The Governor's Office of Community Service will partner with Youth Service America and presenting sponsor State Farm Companies Foundation to celebrate National and Global Youth Service Day on April 20-22,

National & Global Youth Service Day, a program of Youth Service America, is a public awareness and education campaign that engages millions of young people in service and draws together a remarkable consortium of local, state, and national partners, while supporting youth on a life-long path of service and civic engagement.

Several Montana towns and cities will host youth service events that address the needs of their local communities in conjunction with the three day event:

- Montana State University (Billings) will partner with the college chapter of Habitat for Humanity to educate the public around issues of homelessness.
- Sand Coulee youth will be working with AmeriCorps members to cleanup parks and trails in the area in the spirit of Earth Day and environmental awareness.
- The American Red Cross (Great Falls) is partnering with youth to raise money for emergency shelter cots as well as adult and child comfort kits that will be assembled by local students.
- Missoula's Youth Board will focus on Earth Day related activities. They will be participating in the 4th Annual Clark Fork River Clean-Up as well as beautifying Triangle Park by creating mosaics and helping to complete an unfinished area of the park. In addition, the youth of Missoula will create bike sculptures out of used bike parts with the help of Free Cycles.
- Students at the Blackfeet Academy (Browning) will engage in an ongoing "Respect the Community" service learning project with monthly neighborhood clean-ups, as well as assisting with the development of a local animal humane center.
- Bozeman youth will focus their service efforts on beautifying the community by picking up animal waste. After the service event, local experts and representatives from the Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter will educate the public about health concerns associated with dog excrement as well as proper animal care techniques.
- Carroll College (Helena) will host a canned food and clothing drive during a softball tournament. The softball team donating the most canned goods will receive a trophy and \$100 gift certificate to the BrewHouse Pub and Grille. Youth in Helena will also participate in maintaining the Prickly Pear trail, cleaning a campground at Moose Creek and helping with tasks at the YWCA.

National & Global Youth Service Day is a year round effort to expand the impact of the youth service movement. The initiative launches new service organizations, policy changes, and sustainable service programs to create a culture of engaged youth. Planning Tool Kits, Service-Learning Curriculum Guides, classroom posters, grants, and more are available for youth, parents, teachers, and organizations by visiting www.YSA.org/nysd. To view projects happening across the country, please go to the National & Global Youth Service Day U.S. Project map at: www.YSA.org/map.

For more information about getting involved or to find a local project near you, please contact Sue Tinsley, phone 406-444-1391 or email STinsley@mt.gov, or Debbie Saylor at phone 406-243-5177 ext.8 or email saylor@mtcompact.org.

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Youth Service America is a national nonprofit resource center that partners with thousands of organizations committed to increasing the quality and quantity of volunteer opportunities for young people ages 5-25, to serve locally, nationally, and globally. Founded in 1986, Youth Service America's mission is to expand the impact of the youth service movement with communities, schools, corporations, and governments. In addition to National & Global Youth Service Day, which take place concurrently each April, YSA also hosts Servenet (www.Servenet.org), providing the largest database of volunteer opportunities in America. For more information: www.YSA.org.